



*Saint Louis Audubon Society*

## BULLETIN

Volume 40 Number 5

April, 1974

### SECOND ANNUAL AUDUBON DINNER - MAY 20

The good news is that we are to have a very challenging speaker for our dinner meeting which will be held this year at Schneithorst's Restaurant, Lindbergh and Clayton. Charles Callison, Executive Vice-President of the National Audubon Society, will talk about "The Audubon Cause". A former Missourian, he started his career with the Missouri Conservation Commission and edited the Missouri Conservationist. He transferred to the National Wildlife Federation in Washington in 1951 and joined the staff of the Audubon Society in 1960. His busy schedule takes him all around the country as our spokesman and we are indeed fortunate that he can be with us on May 20th.

The evening will start with a cash bar at 6:00 P.M., dinner at 7:00. The price is \$6.00 which includes tax and tip. Reservations are limited to 200 so use the form on the back page and make yours early. They must be in by May 15. Mrs. Gerome Chambers and Mrs. Edwin Stuessie are in charge of arrangements for the dinner.

THIS IS THE ONLY NOTICE YOU WILL RECEIVE

A short annual meeting will be held for the purpose of electing officers and eight directors to replace those whose terms expire in 1974. The nominating committee will appreciate suggestions for candidates. Call Harry Giessow (chairman), 991-0306; Mrs. Robert Higgins, 962-7533; or Mrs. Donald Menke, 962-1000.

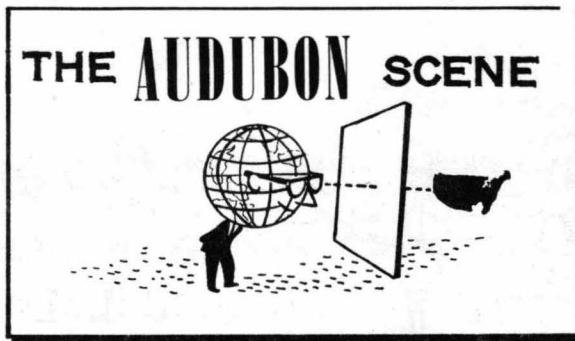
A proposed change in the by-laws will also be voted on at this time, revising Article IV, Section 1 to read as follows: "The officers of the Society shall be a President, 1st, 2nd and 3rd Vice-Presidents, a Secretary and a Treasurer. They shall be elected at the annual meeting of members, and shall hold office for two years. An officer shall be eligible, if elected, to succeed himself in that office for an additional two-year term."

As an added attraction, prints of the winning photographs from the St. Louis Audubon Society Nature Photography contest will be on display.

We care



we use recycled paper



### NOT - SO - HAPPY SPRING

Who was it who said, "These are times which try men's souls" ? It was another era certainly, and perhaps the state of the nation was more parlous. (I'm not completely sure what that word means, but it sounds impressive and I know it doesn't mean anything good.)

And I'm not talking about Watergate or war, economics or energy. I'm referring to the unhappy state of environmental affairs - and perhaps there is some connection. It's bad enough that we are made the spurious scapegoats for some of those problems (see Audubon magazine for March, page 108), but what is more distressing is the situation in some of the battles we've been fighting so desperately to try to keep the whole country from being paved over, plowed up, stripped, channelized, dammed, diked, ditched or leveed. This, of course, is exaggeration, but the fact that we've lost too many of these battles, for whatever reasons, is not.

One of the recent unfortunate set backs was the defeat of the Proxmire Amendment to the Senate Rivers and Harbors Omnibus Bill. The bill itself raises the interest rate to more than 6% for all new projects, but the defeated amendment would have required this rate for all previously authorized projects as well. Thus construction of the Meramec Dam and the L - 15 Levee along the Mississippi would be allowed since they were previously authorized, even though their cost/benefit ratio cannot be justified under today's actual costs. This is just one of many reasons we oppose them.

We continue to believe, as do other environmental organizations, that you go on fighting as long as there is any hope. There are still lawsuits outstanding against the Meramec Dam, and the Sierra Club feels that letters to Governor Christopher Bond are very important now. Even though you have already written, write to him again at the Executive Office, Jefferson City, Missouri, 65101.

The Coalition for the Environment has carried much of the fight against the L-15 levee and done excellent work on many environmental issues. If you are not a member of this organization you should be. Membership, which includes a subscription to their monthly bulletin, Alert, costs \$10.00. Their address is 6267 Delmar, phone 727-0600.

While we are lamenting Congressional action we must note the torpedoing of the Land Use Bill in the House Rules Committee. Torpedoing is the only word I can think of to describe what happened to this vital bill which had been approved by the Senate and House Interior Committee and supported by the Conference of Governors and many concerned citizens groups. We try to stay non-political so you will have to dig out for yourself all the machinations behind this action, but it was a distressing example of non-democracy in negative action.

Oh well - it's spring, and even though the flowering trees are all blasted, the Indian paintbrush and rue anemone are in bloom. And yesterday I heard the Louisiana Waterthrush back at his old stand on our favorite stream. There's no dam there yet, but it's on the drawing board for the future.

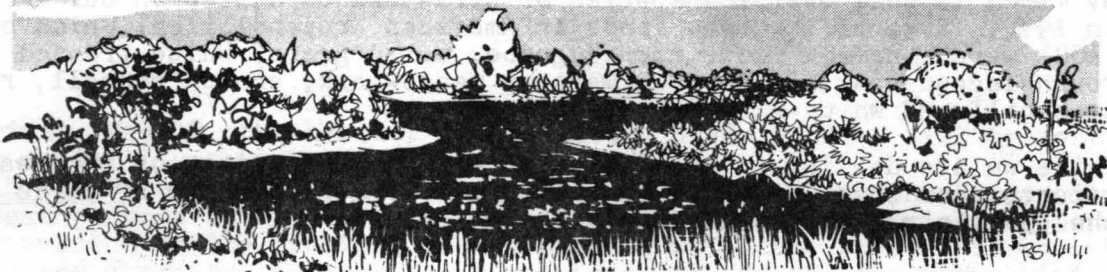
Dam-n.

## AUDUBON NATURE OUTING

This year our Spring Nature Outing will be held at Sunny Ranch on Sunday, May 19. Burrell and Ruby Pickering have made the 500 acres of Sunny Ranch a unique area for nature study, both because of the fascinating nature museum and because of the well-marked trails through a variety of natural areas - fields, woodland, streams and ponds. They are extremely generous in sharing it with others of similar interests and we are fortunate to be their guests twice a year. As in the past a number of leaders will be available for groups in such fields as Botany, Edible Plants, Pond Life, Forestry, Birds, Insects and Butterflies, and Photography.

Audubon members, their families and guests are welcome anytime after 10:00 A. M. Bring binoculars, cameras and lunch. Burrell will transport anything you don't want to carry down to the picnic area near the lake - an interesting walk of a mile for you.

If you are interested in car pooling out to Sunny Ranch call Marshall Magner, 961-4588. Instructions for driving out are as follows: From St. Louis: Interstate 70 - US 40 to Foristell which is 32 miles from Lindbergh. Turn left (south) at overpass and follow highway T for 5 miles to intersection with highway M. (Do not turn on Hwy. 00) Turn right on highway M for 1½ miles to highway O. Turn left on highway O for 2 miles. Farm is on left side of road, red metal gate, sign on pole, house sets back ½ mile through the gate.



## SANCTUARY PROJECT

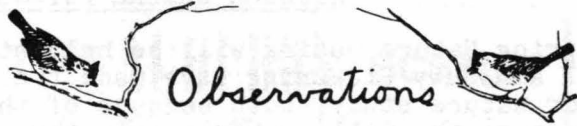
In January of 1972, the Finance Committee reported on 3 types of funds which had been accumulated by the St. Louis Audubon Society and stated priorities for spending these funds with the Board's approval and in accordance with the National Audubon objectives. High on this priority list, was the purchase of land for protection against future encroachments (sanctuaries). With this directive in mind, President Marshall Magner has appointed a Committee to pursue this objective and to make early recommendations to the Board of Directors. The Sanctuary Committee Chairman is Donald Menke and members are Warren Lammert, Mary Wiese, Bertha Massie, Leo Drey, Gary Giessow, Elizabeth Golterman, Henry Day, and Edgar Denison.

At a meeting of this Committee, the subject was broadly discussed, with the purpose of establishing guidelines for the property to be acquired. Proximity to the St. Louis area is considered to be of prime importance if the members are to be able to visit the area without undue travel. For the time being, our interest in acquiring property will be made known and all reasonable prospective properties will be considered and evaluated.

The general membership is requested to make suggestions to the Sanctuary Committee, of any properties that might be suitable so that investigation may be made. It is entirely possible that if a desirable property could be found which exceeded in price the funds available from our Society matching funds might be sought from other conservation organizations.

The Sanctuary Committee realizes that it will not be an easy task to find the type of sanctuary that will be ideal, but it is imperative that this objective be pursued immediately, as land costs are rising and good sites are under strong pressure for development. It is felt that this is a key project for the St. Louis Audubon Society to pursue, since it will provide a lasting example of our efforts to implement conservation.





## WINTER 1974

J. Earl Comfort

The bird story for the first part of 1974 can be summed up in two words - severe weather. The result was that birding at feeders was far better than birding in the field. Many birders had as many as 15 or 20 species of birds, not only at the feeders but also at the all important sources of water. Two outstanding records were the redpoll at Kyrle Boldt's feeder, and the flock of white-winged crossbills at the Warren Lammerts.

In February the weather relented and by the end of the month some 20 species of ducks had been recorded, although small land birds in the field still stayed at low numbers. March's unbelievably warm first week brought back the phoebes (who probably suffered in the March 22nd snow storm) and also brought out flowers at an unheard of (and unfortunate), early date. On March 8 a botany group recorded over 30 blooming species.

By March 15 well over 100 species of birds had been seen in our vicinity in 1974. Some of the best finds in American Ornithological Union order (AOU) were: common loon, horned grebe, eared grebe, white-fronted goose, rough-legged hawk, fish crow, western meadowlark, common redpoll, red crossbill and white-winged crossbill.

While we are dealing in statistics here is one more item of interest. Final reports show that 31 observers listed 200 or more species of birds within the 50-mile radius around St. Louis in 1973.



## EAGLE COUNT, 1974

Weather undoubtedly played a part in the low number of eagles observed in this years survey on February 16. Despite the severe conditions early in the year, the warmth of early February meant that the ice had retreated up-river, and with it, the eagles. Despite careful searching by a number of separate groups, organized as usual by McCune Dudley, the total was only 53 birds. These included 29 adult birds, 16 immatures, and 8 undetermined. This compares with a total of 96 in 1973.

The survey area was the same as last year, between Winfield Dam and Saverton. There was one very unfortunate absence this year, that of Earl Hath who has always helped organize the count. This year the necessity for an operation forced him to spend the Count Day in the hospital- to his regret and ours. One very pleasant addition was the presence of a group who had purchased an eagle-observing trip through the Camelot Auction. Mrs. Martin Toyen organized the group and Bertha Massie and Mary Frances Goodloe served as guides, chauffeurs and caterers for lunch.

A sad footnote to the Eagle Count is the report that 4 Bald Eagles were shot this winter at the Clarence Cannon Wildlife Area. Such wanton and illegal killing is not the only reason for the decline in the numbers of eagles but it is certainly part of it. As readers of the Audubon Magazine know, our organization continues to fight the distribution of poison bait on western range lands, one of the serious factors in the decline of the Golden Eagle.

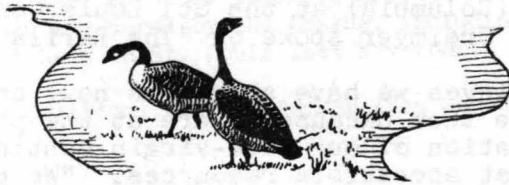
## AN INVITATION TO SPRING BIRDING

Birders, both beginners and old timers, will have many opportunities to enjoy their favorite outdoor sport this spring. As in the past, Martin Schweig will lead birders in Forest Park. Meeting time is 7:30 A.M. Place, behind the art museum. Dates, the last two Sundays in April and the first two in May.

Tony McColl will be the leader for walks in Shaw's Garden on Saturdays, April 27 and May 4. The meeting place will be the Tower Grove entrance gate, the time 8:00 A.M. These walks will be of special interest to beginners.

Probably the most exciting birding of the year occurs at the time of the annual spring census. This year the date will be Saturday, May 4. Everyone is welcome to participate by making observations in his own favorite area within the St. Louis 50-mile radius. Some may want to use this as an occasion for a "century run", since at this time of year, with migration at its peak, it is quite possible to record well over 100 species in our area.

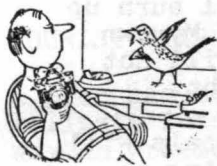
PHONE REPORT ON NUMBER OF SPECIES RECORDED TO EARL HATH (965-8642) AT THE END OF THE DAY



On Friday, May 10, the Webster Groves Nature Study Society will present a new movie:

WILD CHORUS by Charles and Elizabeth Schwartz and Glenn Chambers. This newest picture by Missouri Department of Conservation received a standing ovation at its premiere in December in St. Louis at the Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference. It depicts life in the far north with special emphasis on the Canada Goose. Auduboners and their friends are most welcome.

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR A.N.P.S. (AUDUBON NATURE PHOTOGRAPHY SECTION)



April 6, 1974 - Outdoor Photography Workshop - Pere Marquette State Park. Meet at 10:00 A.M. at visitors center, just west of lodge. Instructor teams will accompany all groups. An all day event; bring your lunch. Event leader: Betty Nettles.

April 17, 1974 - Clayton Federal Savings and Loan Auditorium, Elm and Lockwood, Webster Groves, 7:30 P.M. Don't miss this one! Ted Cavagnaro, professional photographer, will speak on "How the professional photographer approaches a variety of photographic situations."

May 11, 1974 - Outdoor Photography Workshop - Pickle Springs. Take Highway 32 east out of Farmington, Missouri, to Highway AA, then go right into AA for 5 miles. The preserve entrance will be to your left. Meet at the gate at 10:00 A.M. An all day event; bring your lunch. Event leader: Barbara Estill.

May 15, 1974 - Clayton Federal Savings and Loan Auditorium, Elm and Lockwood, Webster Groves, 7:30 P.M. Artist-Photographer Clara Hill will give a talk and demonstration on the basics of good composition. Also, Biologist-photographer Jim Jackson will identify nature subjects of your slides you've been unable to name. Be sure your slides show your name. Put a black dot in the upper right-hand corner of the slide mount while holding the slide with the image inverted and the emulsion side away from you. No glass mounted slides, Please!

# Focus on the



## Environment



BETTY WILSON

The energy crisis has made us more and more aware of the fact that we have been using our natural resources carelessly and that these resources cannot last indefinitely. This situation was accurately described by Harold F. Breimyer, Perry Foundation Professor of Agricultural Economics, University of Missouri (Columbia) at the St. Louis Conference on Energy and Environment. Professor Breimyer spoke on "The Perils of Economic Maturity."

He believes we have shortages now, and will have them in the future. We have them because we are at the point of completing, not the total devastation of our once-virgin continent, but the mining of its best and most accessible resources. "We pick the lowest hanging fruit first. That's what we have done as a nation; we have exploited the resources at hand." Dr. Breimyer said the press had devoted a mile of lineage to the energy crisis. "I never use the word 'crisis' in connection with energy. The crisis is not in energy. It is in us. The situation itself has long been foreseeable. The crisis lies in our uncertain ability to cope with it.

"The statistics on rate of mining our irreplaceable resources have been cited often. Just as a reminder, each 30 years the world uses as much metal as in all previous history. Each generation we double the amount of coal taken from the ground. But the record is held by petroleum, during the last 12 years we pumped as much oil as in all history previously. Some persons have forecast that we will burn up as much oil in the 1970's as in all history prior to 1970. My own guess is that we will want to pump and use that much, but will not be able to - we will fret in frustration and might even fight.

"Then you can shift to figures on the length of time our metals will last if we keep on using more each successive year. According to some estimates, the known reserves of copper will supply us for 28 years, of aluminum - 67 years, of iron - a century. Doubtless other deposits, not yet explored, hide under some spot of the earth's crust. So double those numbers, or triple them. But eventually we will run out of all minerals.

"The whole situation is packed with significant meaning. It would be fascinating if it weren't so scary. We have resisted admitting how much our whole American economy and way of life have been based on abundance. We boast of our high standard of living. We glorify material productivity. Our economic system, basically a market system with heavy but not exclusive reliance on private enterprise, has depended critically on an abundance of resources. We have gone so far in that direction as to make our irreplaceable resources, including land itself, as tradable as a postage stamp or a dozen eggs. Only a bountifully endowed nation, a careless one, or a very weak one, is so insouciant about its resources.



"....In summary, in my judgement we as a nation are going to have to learn to live with less abundant mineral resources. The process of adjustment will be excruciating. I am not even sure our system of government will survive it. If we are to withstand the test of our collective mettle, the starting point is not hard to find. It is to admit what the situation really is. The chant thus far has been, 'Say it ain't so, Joe!' It is so, Joe. Let's get going, Joe. Let's grow up, Joe."



With considerable pride we add an excerpt from another publication - the St. Louis Globe-Democrat of February 2, 1974:

A St. Louis County woman was appointed a member of the Missouri Clean Water Commission Friday by Governor Christopher S. Bond.

She is Mrs. Betty Wilson, wife of Clayton Attorney J. Russell Wilson. She replaces Clarence C. Houk, Potosi Republican, who resigned recently.

Mrs. Wilson is a member of the state board of the League of Women Voters and has served as chairman of three environmental conferences sponsored by the League, including the 1973 conference on energy and the environment held in St. Louis last November.

Mrs. Wilson, the mother of two sons, holds a political science degree from Goucher College, Baltimore, Md.



The following is an excerpt from LAKE AND PRAIRIE, the publication of the Great Lakes Chapter of the SIERRA CLUB. We St. Louisans are close to Giant City State Park and must do our part to stem the proposed desecration:

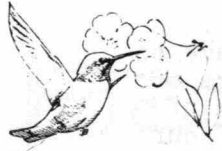
#### TOURIST TRAP IN STATE PARK? WHY NOT SAYS DEVELOPER

A plan has been developed to turn GIANT CITY STATE PARK in Southern Illinois into a commercial tourism center. This project is the plan of Wayman Presley, an entrepreneur from Makanda, Illinois.

Mr. Presley's newest plan presented to the Illinois legislature and the Division of Tourism in early January calls for the construction of:  
200 log cabins, 50 buildings to house arts and crafts, an old fort,  
a 100 acre lake, air landing strip, military park, miniature railroad,  
and trailer campsites atop the cliffs of the park.

According to the proposal the state is to own the land, pay for the construction of the complex, and lease the facilities to private concessionaires. The state already owns 90% of the 1400 acre complex site. Actually, the land for the proposed project is the western section of Giant City State Park, which includes the newly dedicated Fern Rocks Nature Preserve.

The first phase of this plan calls for the state to conduct a feasibility study for the project. Anyone concerned with protecting the natural values of one of the states finest parks should write to DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION Director, Anthony Dean, Springfield, Illinois 62702. Citizens of Illinois should write to their representatives.



## THE LIVING EARTH

Bruce Linders



Translucent rays from the rising sun  
Warm the waking earth from its night's long sleep.  
Moist dew glistens on blades of grass,  
Dawn's soft breeze rouses the living earth.

Creatures of the dark withdraw to tranquil abodes,  
Their fierce nightly ritual finished for a while.  
Survival of the fittest rules in this vast domain  
Where the strong will live and the weak will perish.

The red fox pads silently to his den,  
Stomach rounded by the luckless rabbit.  
Great owls wing their way to a favored perch,  
Brown bats make haste as they flee mornings light.

Deep in meditation, a praying mantis prepares for his work,  
Sharpening clawed forearms, tools of his deadly trade.  
Ruby-throated hummingbirds sip cool nectar,  
Wings beating faster than eye can see.

Majestic birds of prey soar into effortless flight,  
Death reflecting from talons of their feet.  
Graceful deer move slowly through the deep forest,  
So silent that only the cracking twig betrays them.

Noisy jays announce that this day will not last;  
In quick response, a squirrel chatters.  
With rich booty, bees swarm to their hive,  
Soldier ants returning with spoils of a day's journey.

Golden shafts of sunlight creep toward the horizon,  
Casting eerie shadows throughout its realm.  
From a distant hill a coyote barks;  
Later the moon will rise, and all will be still.



The Audubon Society has an answering service with the Coalition for the Environment. The number is 727-2311.

### Executive Secretary

Mrs. Jay Rice  
240 Blackmer Place  
St. Louis, Mo. 63119  
Telephone 961-0895

The use of computers and zip codes changes procedures that we have advocated in the past. When you receive your renewal notice from National, please return the punch card with your check directly to National in the envelope provided. This should eliminate delays in receiving your magazine. (We allow some lag before removing you from our local mailings!)

### *Application for Joint Membership*

Check the Membership You Desire (includes Audubon Magazine)

Individual .....	<input type="checkbox"/> \$12.00 per year	Supporting .....	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 50.00 per year
Family .....	<input type="checkbox"/> \$15.00 per year	Contributing .....	<input type="checkbox"/> \$100.00 per year
Sustaining .....	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25.00 per year	Donor .....	<input type="checkbox"/> \$250.00 per year
Life .....	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1000.00		

Name .....

Address ..... Please Print

City..... State..... Zip #.....

Your Local Chapter ..... St. Louis Audubon Society #2602

**IMPORTANT:** Indicate whether this is a new membership or a renewal payment by checking the proper box.—NEW ☐ RENEWAL ☐

Please make checks payable to: — National Audubon Society,  
950 Third Avenue, New York, N. Y. 10022

Membership Fees and Contributions are tax deductible.



## CONFERENCES ANYONE ?

This seems to be a time for conference-attending in addition to all the other possible enticements that spring holds for one interested in nature and the environment. For Audubon members the most important is the West Central Regional Audubon Conference to be held in Wichita Kansas, May 4 - 5. In 1974 there will be regional conferences all over the country in place of the usual national convention. (next convention - New Orleans, April 1975)

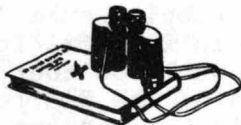
There are two major topics for the conference: the proposed prairie national park and the proposed extension of the Kerr - McClellan Navigation system on the Arkansas River from Tulsa to Wichita. There will be morning field trips each day to areas involved in these projects, which also happen to be rich in birdlife.

It is hoped to have a delegation from our chapter for this conference. Anyone who is interested in attending should contact Marshall Magner immediately.

Another meeting of interest will take place in Syracuse, New York, April 18-21, the North American Hawk Migration Conference. The date is probably a little too immediate and the distance a little far for attendance from St. Louis, but it is good to know that at last a major effort is being made to coordinate the work of professional ornithologists and many individual and group observers of the fall hawk migrations.

The International Conference on Endangered Species will be held in Washington D. C. on June 11 - 14. It is sponsored by the Wild Canid Survival and Research Center which has several Audubon members (Dick Grossenheider, the Cecil Crigers, the Harvard Heckers) on its board. Marlin Perkins is its acting director and is coordinating the conference. Among topics to be discussed are Wild Canids, Polar Bears, Sea Otters, Sea Turtles, Whales and Marine Animals, Birds etc.

Anyone interested in further information should write the organization at P. O. Box 16204, St. Louis, Missouri, 63105.



### SUMMER CAMP SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS



The St. Louis Audubon Society is pleased to announce the awards for the 1974 Summer Camp Scholarships. This year's recipients are again an outstanding group of educators who will be able to translate their camp experiences into classroom experiences for many young people.

<u>Name</u>	<u>School System</u>
Dorothy Cole	Hazelwood
Colleen Kalinoski	St. Louis City
Gail Delgman	Parkway
Pat Gilman	St. Charles
Kenneth Fast	Kirkwood
Lois Fast	Kirkwood
Mary Kenny	St. Charles
Sheryl Spotswood	Ferguson-Florissant
Dorothy Steinmann	St. Charles



## OBSERVATIONS ON FEEDING BIRDS

Edgar Denison

For the benefit of those lucky ones who escape our St. Louis winter to points East, West and South, but not North, we did have some weather in early winter: lots of snow and slightly frigid temperatures. Living in the eastern part of Kirkwood, bird-feeding became not only a necessary chore but also a highly entertaining one. There were quantities of birds with the bulk consisting of Goldfinches and Pine Siskins. The Goldfinches started to come in October and their number increased steadily to about 30, but no Siskins. Then on the Saturday before Christmas, in the morning there was one Siskin. That afternoon there were five, and soon they outnumbered the Goldfinches.

We and our neighbours have those tubular, plastic feeders with six perches each, which attract the perching birds, Goldfinches, Siskins, Titmouse, Chickadee but few others. The great "treat" consists of so-called thistle seed, which we buy locally. IF this is a thistle, I do not know it. Many sprouted last year, and do NOT look like thistles to my untrained botanical eye. But, the supply house claims that the seeds ARE African thistles. The small birds certainly prefer these seeds to sunflower seeds.

When it gets really cold or a storm is blowing in, then we see Purple Finches; at one time there were 5 males on the ground. They prefer feeding on the ground, and only once did I see one on the feeder perch. Strangely, and in contrast with other years, there came only a few females. Normally we experience several females for each male. This year this is turned around.

We also supply finely ground corn-- chick-feed. Unfortunately, our largest local feed supplier, Purina, stopped producing this finely ground corn after their big fire, many years ago, and our supply comes from a feed store in Pacific, Missouri and has its origin in East St. Louis. It is too bad that so much bird-feed on the market is much too coarse for the smaller birds such as the Juncoes and even some of the Sparrows. The Whitethroated Sparrows were much in evidence, feeding on the ground with slow thoroughness... never in a hurry.

The Goldfinches and Siskins readily feed on the ground, often so thickly packed that I have estimated as many as 30 on a patch of 6 square feet. Most of us have observed that strange habit of their taking off in unison as by command. This happens frequently, and seems to be a defensive maneuver against sneak attackers.

It is astonishing that birds KNOW when bad weather is approaching. Something in their system tells them to "tank up" as a storm moves into the area. I assume that the falling barometric pressure has some influence in setting the alarm. And then feeding becomes more than ever a matter of survival and the birds really flock in droves to the feeding stations. At such times the birds are truly reliable weather forecasters.

The feeding stations, though in the open, are surrounded by shrubs and trees. In winter we stake 3 foot chickenwire around the shrubs which makes any feline surprise attack impossible. We maintain three suet feeders, and have some daily customers. The Downy clan is always around. A Sapsucker comes about every two hours, and a female Hairy Woodpecker is also a good customer.

Strangely, the ubiquitous Starlings have been conspicuous by their absence. Not entirely absent, but only very few have come to get suet. Equally surprising was the presence of only very few Bluejays, while we have normally at least a squawky squadron around. I believe that our noisy Bluejays followed those fugitives from our winter and went South. Where the Starlings went, I do not know, and I do not miss them. So much for feeding those wonderful birds. Does anybody want three pesky squirrels? They are free for the picking up! No charge.



Editors Note: An article like this causes an almost irresistible urge to say, "Yes, but let me tell you about my observations!" So, I'm not going to resist.

Like Edgar (and Earl Comfort), we would agree that this is certainly a finch year. We have had those huge flocks in our more northerly area of Kirkwood, and also cardinals by the dozens. Specifically, we have counted as many as nine males at once, and seven or eight females. This addendum is being written in mid-February and already the mornings are noisy as the scarlet males begin their battle of song to decide who gets to claim this territory for nesting and who must leave.

We are also having the pleasure of the purple finches' song, unusual for the St. Louis area, and for us, a nostalgic reminder of Massachusetts, and our days of ignorance. The purple finch was one of the first birds we noticed there; in fact its beautiful song was probably one of those first straws which turned us to birding. But, in our abysmal lack of knowledge (and Field Guide), we decided they were probably scarlet tanagers, a name we had picked up some place. Thanks to the Dudley Rosses we learned better. They were neighbors at that time, but have since gone on to 600-plus life lists and mention in Peterson's introductions. I always like to recount this gaffe in answer to beginning birders who say "Oh, I feel so stupid; I'll never learn to tell them apart." Yes, you can; we all had to begin some place, some time.

Meanwhile, back at the feeder, I must mention the varying flock of doves (who are also choosing up sides now) and the acrobatic flickers (two males and a female...you tell them apart by the mustache mark, or the lack of it). I say acrobatic because they ignore my melted suet but siphon up the millet by clinging to the feeder and sucking through the sides of their beaks. The melted suet, mostly collected pan drippings, does appeal to a mocker, chickadees and a Carolina wren. However, the wren hasn't been back since the last severe weather, and I worry about what may have happened to him and many other small birds, with the prolonged snow cover and low temperature. The woods were frighteningly silent and empty the last time we were in the country.

\* \* \* \* \*

Thanks, Edgar, and I hope you and the readers will forgive me for taking advantage of your excellent article to do some random thinking out loud.

M.C.W.



# calendar.....

- Wednesday, April 17, 7:30 P.M. AUDUBON NATURE PHOTOGRAPHY SECTION. See p. 5
- Saturday, April 20, 8:00 A.M. AUDUBON NATURE WALK at Shaw's Garden Arboretum, Gray Summit, Mo. Meet at main gate.
- Saturdays, April 20 and May 4, 8:00 A.M. SHAW'S GARDEN BIRD WALKS. See p. 5
- Sundays, April 21 and 28, May 5 and 12, 7:30 A.M. FOREST PARK BIRD WALKS. Meet back of Art museum. See p. 5
- Saturday, May 4 ANNUAL SPRING CENSUS. Make observations within 50-mile radius of St. Louis. See p. 5.
- Sunday, May 5 WGNSS NATURE OUTING AT SUNNY RANCH. See p. 3 for directions.
- Friday, May 10, 8:00 P.M. St. Louis County Library, 1640 S. Lindbergh WGNSS MEETING See p. 5
- Saturday, May 11, 10:00 A.M. OUTDOOR PHOTOGRAPHY WORKSHOP AT PICKLE SPRINGS. See p. 5
- Wednesday, May 15, 7:30 P.M. AUDUBON NATURE PHOTOGRAPHY SECTION. See p. 5
- Sunday, May 19 AUDUBON NATURE OUTING AT SUNNY RANCH. See p. 3
- Monday, May 20, 7:00 P.M. ST. LOUIS AUDUBON SOCIETY SECOND ANNUAL DINNER - Charles Callison, Speaker. Schneithorst's Restaurant, Lindbergh and Clayton. See p. 1 and coupon below.

## OFFICERS

J. Marshall Magner, President  
 Leo Drey, 1st Vice President  
 Gary Giessow, 2nd Vice President  
 Edgar Denison, 3rd Vice President  
 Mrs. Gerome Chambers, Secretary  
 Mrs. Joel Massie, Treasurer

Board members with dates terms expire are as follows:

1974  
 Louis Brenner  
 William Brush  
 Mrs. Eleanore Nelson  
 Edward Ortleb  
 Mrs. William Wiese  
 Jack Van Benthuyssen  
 John B. Gunter

1975  
 George Billy III  
 Miss Mabel Boss  
 Mrs. Edward F. Mason  
 Miss Sharon Miller  
 Mrs. Hiram Norcross, Jr.  
 Dr. Mildred Trotter  
 Kurt P. Wesseling, Jr.  
 Mrs. Edwin F. Stuessie

1976  
 Earl H. Hath  
 Mrs. Earl H. Hath  
 Mrs. Warren Lammert  
 Donald M. Menke  
 Father James Mulligan  
 Jay G. Rice  
 Martin Schweig, Jr.  
 Mrs. J. Russell Wilson

## DETACH TICKET AND RESERVATION

### -TICKET-

ST. LOUIS AUDUBON ANNUAL MEETING

MONDAY, MAY 20, 1974  
 Dinner 7 p.m.  
 SCHNEITHORST'S INN (Bavarian Room)  
 Lindbergh & Clayton Road

Price \$6.00      Reservations must  
 Cash Bar      be made by May 15.  
 6-7 p.m.      Limited seating

KEEP THIS STUB TO PRESENT AT DOOR

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Number of Reservations \_\_\_\_\_

### -RESERVATION-

FILL OUT AND MAIL THIS STUB WITH  
 REMITTANCE BY MAY 15 TO:

Mrs. Edwin F. Stuessie,  
 1424 Bridle Road,  
 Webster Groves, Mo. 63119

MAKE CHECK TO: St. Louis Audubon

Enclosed is \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 for \_\_\_\_\_ reservation/s

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_